

**UNIFIED SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
EMERGENCY SERVICES ORGANIZATION  
OPERATIONAL AREA EMERGENCY PLAN**

**ANNEX O**

**ANIMAL CONTROL**

**March 2000**

# UNIFIED SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ORGANIZATION

## ANNEX O ANIMAL CONTROL

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

#### Animal Control Task Force

Lt. James Baker, San Diego Humane Society  
Frank Brock, Oceanside Humane Society  
Tom Butler, Escondido Humane Society  
Diana Dowdy, Camp Pendleton Animal Control  
Tony Graytok, Coronado Animal Shelter  
Terry Hopper, Department of Animal Control  
Dr. Hubert Johnstone, County Veterinarian  
Ralph Kuner, The Animal Ark  
Kelly Larkin, State of California Brand Inspector  
Maxine Lynch, La Mesa Animal Control  
Ken Maehler, Department of Fish and Game  
Dr. Dena Mangiamele, D.V.M., MPVM, Director, San Diego County Department of Animal Control  
Dave Matthias, Zoological Society  
Pat Mullane, Disaster Services Coordinator  
Priscilla Price, Rancho Coastal Humane Society  
Rollie Quon, Imperial Beach Animal Control  
Steve Sax, Helen Woodward Animal Care Center  
William Will, Chula Vista Animal Shelter  
Dr. Ben York, Jr., Veterinary Medical Association

#### Principal Planners and Staff

Laura Ward, Department of Animal Control  
Jim Phelps, Office of Disaster Preparedness  
Theresa Williams, Chula Vista Animal Control

#### Operational Area Plan Review Committee

John Traylor, Chairman, Coronado Fire Department  
Glenn McCloskey, Oceanside Fire Department  
Jim Hardiman, Chula Vista Fire Department  
Mike Jessen, Escondido Fire Department  
David Burke, La Mesa Fire Department  
D.P. Lee, San Diego Fire Department  
Chris Bach, San Diego Fire Department

#### Edited and Printed

Office of Disaster Preparedness

# UNIFIED SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ORGANIZATION

## ANNEX O

### ANIMAL CONTROL

#### Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
<b>FOREWORD</b> .....	1
<b>I. GENERAL</b> .....	1
A. Purpose .....	1
B. Goals and Objectives .....	1
C. Concept of Operations .....	2
D. Activation and Termination .....	2
<b>II. ORGANIZATION</b> .....	2
A. At the Scene .....	2
B. EOC .....	2
<b>III. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES</b> .....	3
A. All Affected Agencies .....	3
B. Animal Control Planning Committee .....	4
C. San Diego County Department of Animal Control .....	4
D. Public Animal Control Agencies .....	4
E. Private Animal Care Shelters .....	5
F. Veterinary Medical Association .....	5
G. Zoological Society .....	5
H. American Red Cross .....	5
I. State Fish and Game .....	5
J. Office of Disaster Preparedness .....	5
<b>IV. FUNCTIONS</b> .....	6
A. Notification .....	6
B. Communications .....	6
C. Incident Command .....	7
D. Triage .....	8
E. Transportation .....	8
F. Medical Treatment .....	8
G. Sheltering .....	9
H. Dead Animals .....	9
<b>APPENDICES</b>	
Hazard Specific Checklists .....	10

## **ANNEX O**

### **ANIMAL CONTROL**

#### **FOREWORD**

This Annex was developed to augment the San Diego County Operational Area Emergency Plan, for the care and control of animals in the event of a major emergency or disaster. Emergency planning, for the most part, focuses on saving lives and property. Planning for the care and control of animals has not, however, been a priority in the past.

Animals are quite often overlooked during and after a disaster, until they have become a problem. It is generally assumed that they can fend for themselves and not present additional problems for society. This Annex recognizes that animals can become a problem for society if not appropriately cared for and controlled.

When evacuation is imminent, it is very likely that people will not evacuate their homes if this includes abandoning their pets. It is expected that some of these pets will be taken to public shelters. Annex O is intended to plan for these and other disaster situations with an orderly and effective response system. Concentration is on rescue, care, and feeding of animals abandoned or lost and those brought to public shelters.

#### **I. GENERAL**

The San Diego Operational Area Emergency Plan Animal Control Annex describes the basic concepts, policies, and procedures for providing a coordinated animal control response to any disaster. This Annex serves as the unifying document for the emergency plans of the County, Cities, and animal care and control agencies. The Animal Control Mutual Aid Agreement, among and between the County of San Diego and the Cities in the County, provides for an Operational Area-wide animal control program.

##### **A. Purpose**

To establish organizational responsibilities and general policies and procedures for the care and control of animals during natural and technological disasters.

##### **B. Goals and Objectives**

The overall goals of animal control operations are to:

- Protect the health and safety of the community.
- Provide immediate care and control of animals.
- Minimize animal suffering, loss of life, and subsequent disability by ensuring timely and coordinated assistance.
- Provide care and control of animals brought to shelters.

- Provide a system for returning animals to their owners after the event is over.

The objectives of this Annex are to:

- Describe the animal control response system to implement this Annex, concept of operations, and organization.
- Establish procedures for activating and deactivating this Annex.
- Provide for the management of animal control services, facilities, activities, and resources.
- Provide a basis with which the County, Cities, and other supporting agencies can establish support plans and standard operating procedures.

#### **C. Concept of Operations**

For the purposes of this Annex, an animal control disaster applies primarily to a major situation or potential situation, creating sufficient animal control problems to exceed the capabilities of the local agency.

#### **D. Activation and Termination**

The activation and termination of this Annex shall be at the request of the Local Animal Control Agency and initiated by the Director of the San Diego County Department of Animal Control or designee.

## **II. ORGANIZATION**

The operations described in this Annex address all levels of disaster management from the scene to shelters. The plan provides a network of all agencies involved in animal control and care, and their respective roles, for an effective animal control system.

#### **A. At the Scene**

At the scene the responsibility for animal control belongs to the respective animal control agency for the affected area of the County. As the incident overwhelms the initial responding animal control agency, that agency would expand operational procedures and activate the Annex.

#### **B. EOC**

##### **1. City EOCs**

Each city has a central facility designated as an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). From the EOC, disaster operations are directed or coordinated. It is activated when a disaster occurs and is staffed by city employees with emergency responsibilities, as well as liaison representatives from other agencies and

jurisdictions. City plans may call for an animal control representative to be present when the EOC is activated. In each city, the city manager is designated as Director of Emergency Services, by ordinance, and directs emergency operations from the EOC.

2. Operational Area/County EOC

The Operational Area/County EOC serves the same function as the City EOCs with the Chief Administrative Officer serving as Director of Emergency Services for the unincorporated areas of the County, and Coordinator of Emergency Services for the Operational Area.

It is located at 5555 Overland Avenue, Building 19, County Operations Center, Kearny Mesa, and is used as the central point for resource acquisition and allocation, as well as coordination.

The Animal Control section of the EOC is normally activated when the EOC is fully activated. It is staffed by a representative of the San Diego County Department of Animal Control, who will make decisions about resource allocation, priorities, and will coordinate the animal control response for the County.

- a. Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) - directs or coordinates, the Emergency Services Organization and the Emergency Management Program. In a major emergency or disaster located entirely within the County unincorporated area, the CAO directs emergency operations. In a disaster involving more than one jurisdiction, the CAO serves as the Coordinator of emergency operations.
- b. Director, County Department of Animal Control (or designee) - reports to the CAO and is responsible for directing emergency Animal Control operations within the unincorporated area of the County and Contract Cities, and is responsible for coordinating emergency operations if one or more jurisdictions are involved. Additionally, the Director of the Department of Animal Control, or designee, maintains active liaison with fire, law enforcement, other animal control agencies, and public and private shelter representatives.

### III. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. All Affected Agencies

1. Prepare Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and functional checklists for animal control response to a disaster or emergency, including a system for automatic reporting of pre-designated personnel to assigned disaster posts.
2. Train personnel and alternates.
3. Maintain an active liaison with the Animal Control Planning Committee.

**B. Animal Control Planning Committee**

1. Develop, maintain, and exercise the Animal Control Annex.
2. Develop and organize a system to identify and track animals received during a disaster.
3. Develop criteria establishing county-wide holding time and euthanasia standards for implementation during a disaster.

**C. San Diego County Department of Animal Control (DAC)**

1. Writes and updates the Animal Control Annex and Mutual Aid Agreement.
2. Directs disaster animal control operations within the unincorporated areas of San Diego County, and its contract cities.
3. Coordinates the procurement and allocation of animal control resources requested by cities to support disaster animal control operations.
4. Provides support staff to the Animal Control Planning Committee and assists with the coordination of training and plan development exercises.
5. Responds to requests for aid to other regions.
6. Assists in the development of a resource directory for animal control.
7. Maintains liaison with the coordinators of other emergency functions such as fire and rescue, law enforcement, health, and care and shelter.
8. Maintains liaison with the Red Cross, volunteer agencies, and other representatives within the County.
9. Coordinates the transportation of animals to animal care facilities within its jurisdiction and to other areas as requested.

**D. Public Animal Control Agencies**

1. Direct disaster operations within their jurisdictions.
2. Coordinate the transportation of animals to animal care facilities within their jurisdiction.
3. Request and respond to requests, for mutual aid within the County.
4. Maintain liaison with the coordinators of other emergency functions such as fire and rescue, law enforcement, health, and care and shelter.

5. Maintain liaison with volunteer agencies within the County.
6. Assist in the development of a resource directory for animal control.
7. Maintain liaison with Animal Control Planning Committee.

**E. Private Animal Care Shelters**

1. Provide care for animals.
2. Assist in recovery and rescue of animals.
3. May provide available resources.
4. Provide liaison to Animal Control Planning Committee.

**F. Veterinary Medical Association**

1. Coordinates provision of emergency shelters for animals, as available.
2. Coordinates private veterinary medical service.
3. Provides liaison to Animal Control Planning Committee.

**G. Zoological Society**

1. Provides expertise and resources to handle and care for exotic animals.
2. Requests, and responds to requests for assistance.

**H. American Red Cross (ARC)**

1. Provides liaison to Animal Control Planning Committee.
2. Assists Animal Control Planning Committee in the development of plans for the care and control of animals brought to Red Cross Mass Care Shelters.

**I. State Fish and Game**

1. Provides liaison to Animal Control Planning Committee.
2. Provides assistance with wildlife.

**J. Office of Disaster Preparedness (ODP)**

1. Provides liaison to Animal Control Planning Committee.
2. Assists in obtaining necessary resources.
3. Assists with communications, as necessary.



#### **IV. FUNCTIONS**

##### **A. Notification**

1. Alert - Standby Mode - When a jurisdiction has information indicating that this Annex may need to be activated, that jurisdiction will contact the San Diego County Department of Animal Control (DAC). It is not necessary to make a commitment of resources at that time; however, it is a good time to start planning and preparing an appropriate response.
2. Activate - When the need to activate this Annex is confirmed, the affected jurisdiction will notify their law enforcement agency, and they will contact the San Diego County Department of Animal Control. Pertinent information such as the nature of the emergency, the location, the type of animals involved, and the anticipated number of animals should be provided. DAC will make the following notifications:
  - a. Notify the closest San Diego County Animal Control unit to respond to the scene and report directly to the animal control authority on scene, or law enforcement representative, to provide direct communications between the scene and DAC.
  - b. Notify animal shelters in the area of the incident.
  - c. Notify all other agencies as needed which may include:
    - (1) Humane Societies
    - (2) Fish and Game
    - (3) Zoological Society
    - (4) Local Veterinarians
    - (5) Office of Disaster Preparedness
    - (6) Red Cross
    - (7) Veterinarian Medical Association

##### **B. Communications**

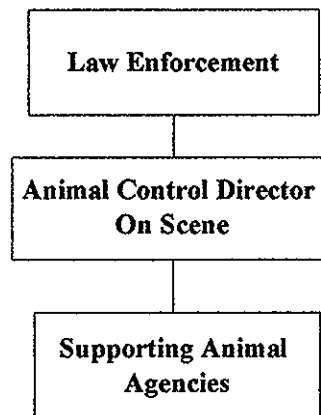
There may be common radio frequencies or talkgroups on the 800 MHz radio system for use by animal control agencies. The new Regional Communications system has several mutual aid talkgroups which could be used if the agencies are all on the 800 MHz system.

The San Diego County Department of Animal Control (DAC) has the responsibility of providing communications capability to the animal control authority on scene. Once the

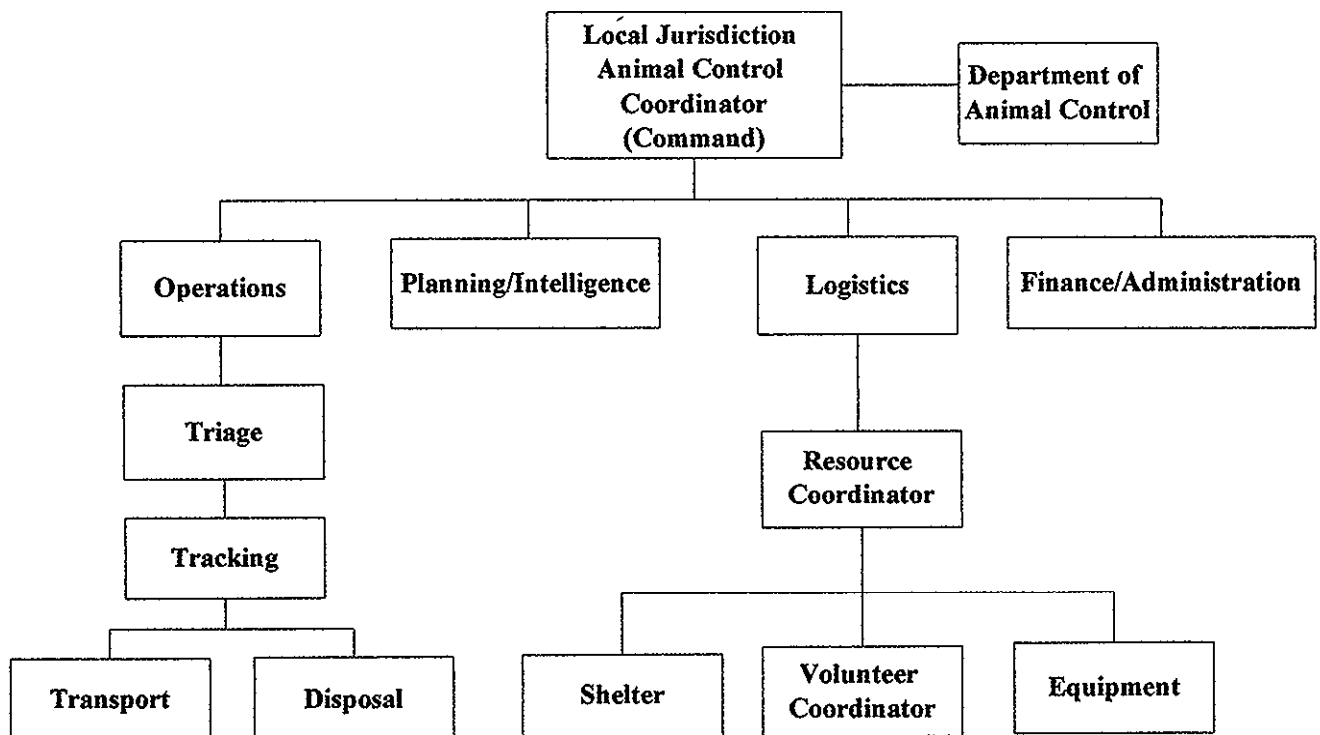
DAC has been notified of the need to activate this Annex, an animal control officer will be dispatched directly to the scene so that the officers' vehicle radio can be used to speak to the DAC Communications Center.

**C. Incident Command**

**OVERALL COMMAND STRUCTURE**



**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE WITHIN AN INCIDENT**



#### **D. Triage**

Triage is the process of sorting animals for emergency care, euthanasia, transportation, impoundment and disposal. The Triage Coordinator has the overall responsibility of coordinating triage management.

1. Primary triage is the first sorting of animals in the field, to determine which animals are evacuated to secondary triage areas.
2. Secondary triage is the second phase of sorting animals, and is performed in the triage treatment area. At this time, an animal's primary triage category may change. Stabilizing treatment may be initiated while awaiting transportation; however, transport should not be delayed for treatment.
3. When euthanasia is deemed necessary by the Triage Coordinator or designee, the animal will be promptly euthanized.

#### **E. Transportation**

The coordination of transportation from the scene to operational animal facilities is the responsibility of the Local Jurisdiction Animal Control Coordinator.

The Coordinator will assess the situation and determine the type and number of transportation vehicles needed. This information will be relayed by the Communications Coordinator to San Diego County Animal Control Department (DAC) Dispatch.

DAC Dispatch Center will:

1. Contact the closest providers,
2. Make arrangements for transportation, and
3. Advise the Communication Coordinator of estimated time of arrival, and relay other essential information.

#### **F. Medical Treatment**

Animal control agencies will coordinate the emergency treatment of animals within their care and jurisdiction.

**G. Sheltering**

**1. Mass Care Shelters**

The American Red Cross or shelter management personnel will be contacted by the San Diego County Department of Animal Control or the City animal control agency within three hours after the opening of the facility. The DAC will advise and assist the manager in handling and caring for animals at the shelter until transportation can be arranged.

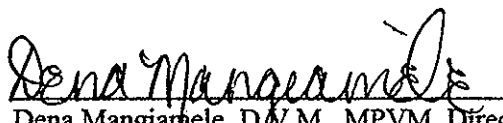
**2. Animal Field Shelter**

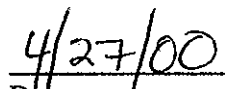
All animals will be picked up in the field, collected, and transported to shelters (which will be determined at the time of the incident). These animals will be tracked, cared for until picked up by their owners, or until other arrangements have been made.

**H. Dead Animals**

In order to reduce the chance of the spread of disease and protect the public health, it is essential that local jurisdictions be responsible for coordinating the pick up and removal of dead animals.

**AUTHENTICATION:**

  
Dena Mangiamiele, D.V.M., MPVM, Director,  
San Diego County Department of Animal Control

  
Date

**APPENDIX O-1**

**ANIMAL CONTROL ANNEX**

**EMERGENCY ACTION CHECKLIST**

**RESPONSE TO A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE**

<u><b>Action</b></u>	<u><b>Responsibility</b></u>
Determine condition and capacity of shelters; request shelters to activate Disaster Plans.	DAC (Department of Animal Control)
Determine availability and condition of animal supplies; take appropriate action to maintain inventories or resupply.	All Agencies
<b>IF THERE ARE ONLY A FEW OR NO CASUALTIES, PREPARE TO SUPPORT MORE HEAVILY DAMAGED JURISDICTIONS.</b>	
<b>IF THERE IS EXTENSIVE DAMAGE AND A LARGE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES, TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS AS APPROPRIATE.</b>	
Take action to expand shelter capacity.	All Shelters
Augment personnel.	All Agencies
Obtain emergency supplies and specialized equipment.	All Shelters
Activate plans to obtain supplementary services such as public information, records, reports, etc.	DAC
Activate plan to impound animals.	Each Animal Control Agency
Inform the Emergency Public Information Officer of current information for dissemination to the public.	All Affected Agencies
Provide Field medical care, including triage, near or in affected areas.	All Responding Agencies

**Animal Control  
Earthquake Response**

**Action**

**Responsibility**

Determine number and location of animals that require hospitalization.

Scene Coordinator

Determine transportation needs and capabilities.

Scene Coordinator

Have units dispatched to pick up injured animals.

Scene Coordinator/DAC

Assign animals to shelters to make best use of facilities.

Scene Coordinator

Determine availability and location of Animal Control personnel.

Scene Coordinator/DAC

Assign personnel to shelter facilities as required.

Each Animal Control Agency

Request assistance from Regional or State OES through ODP.

DAC

Obtain State mutual aid resources.

ODP

Inventory and determine need for euthanasia and vet supplies.

IC/DAC/Scene Coordinator

Periodically poll Red Cross Shelters for animal control need.

Each Animal Control Agency

Notify DAC when shelter capacity is reached.

Each affected animal shelter

Store food and water for shelter facilities.

Each Animal Control Agency

## APPENDIX O-2

### EMERGENCY ACTION CHECKLIST

#### RESPONSE TO HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INCIDENT

<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
Assist with evacuation of potentially affected areas as needed.	Scene Coordinator
Determine need for and perform euthanasia.	Scene Coordinator
Removal of bodies.	Scene Coordinator HAZMAT
Inform the Emergency Public Information Officer of current information for public dissemination.	Scene Coordinator HAZMAT
Evaluation of animals for decontamination.	Scene Coordinator HAZMAT

## APPENDIX O-3

### EMERGENCY ACTION CHECKLIST

#### RESPONSE TO IMMINENT/ACTUAL FLOODING

##### FLOODING EXPECTED

<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
Identify animal care facilities subject to flooding and prepare to relocate animals.	Each Animal Control Agency
Designate facility to handle the veterinary needs of flood victims.	Each Animal Control Agency
Store water and food for shelter facilities.	Each Shelter
Place Animal Control personnel on standby status.	Each Animal Control Agency
Establish contact with DAC. Assign animal control liaison to Emergency Operations Center (EOC), if activated.	Scene Coordinator
Plan for alternate communications.	DAC
Begin evacuation of Animal Control facilities, as necessary.	Scene Coordinator
Coordinate animal evacuation with Law Enforcement Movement Coordinator.	Scene Coordinator

##### FLOODING OCCURS

Evacuate flood-prone Animal Care facilities.	Each Facility
Initiate alternate communications, if needed.	DAC
Request assistance from State OES.	Scene Coordinator/ODP
Activate Animal Control Annex, as required.	Scene Coordinator/DAC



## APPENDIX O-4

### EMERGENCY ACTION CHECKLIST

#### RESPONSE TO IMMINENT/ACTUAL DAM FAILURE

##### DAM FAILURE IMMINENT

###### Action

###### Responsibility

Put Animal Control personnel on standby.

Each affected Animal Control Agency

Identify animal care facilities subject to inundation.

Each Animal Control Agency

Evacuate animals from facilities, if necessary.

Each Animal Control Agency

Plan for alternate communications.

DAC

Coordinate animal evacuation with the  
Law Enforcement Coordinator.

Scene Coordinator

Store water and food for shelter facilities.

Each Animal Control Agency

##### DAM FAILURE OCCURS

Mobilize animal care personnel.

All Agencies

Evacuate flood-prone shelter facilities.

Each Animal Control Agency

Initiate alternate communications, if needed.

DAC

Request assistance from State OES, as necessary.

ODP Scene Management

## APPENDIX O-5

### EMERGENCY ACTION CHECKLIST

#### RESPONSE TO IMMINENT/ACTUAL FIRE

##### FIRE IMMINENT

<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
Identify animal care facilities that may be threatened, and prepare to relocate animals.	Each Animal Control Agency
Designate facilities to handle the veterinary needs of fire victims.	Each Animal Control Agency
Put Animal Control personnel on standby status.	Each Shelter
Establish contact with DAC. Assign animal control liaison to Emergency Operations Center (EOC), if activated.	Scene Coordinator
Plan for alternate communications.	DAC
Begin evacuations of animal facilities, as necessary.	Scene Coordinator
Coordinate animal evacuation with Law Enforcement Movement Coordinator.	Scene Coordinator
Notify DAC when shelter capacity is reached.	Each affected Animal Shelter

##### FIRE OCCURS

Mobilize animal care personnel.	All agencies
Evacuate fire-prone animal care facilities as needed.	Each Facility
Initiate alternate communications, if needed.	DAC
Activate Animal Control Annex, as required.	Scene Coordinator/DAC
Request assistance from State OES.	DAC/Operational Area Coordinator

**APPENDIX O-6**  
**EMERGENCY ACTION CHECKLIST**  
**RESPONSE TO OIL SPILL**

**OIL SPILL**

**Action**

**Responsibility**

Identify facilities that can be used for the cleaning and treatment of birds and other affected wildlife.

DAC (Department of Animal Control)

Assist the California Department of Fish and Game, as requested.

DAC